GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3708
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
USER FRIENDDLY BUILDIDNGS AND RAILWAY STATIONS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to form rules to ensure that all Government Buildings and railway stations become user friendly for handicapped people;

(b) if so, steps initiated in this regard; and

(c) the time frame worked on therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a)to(c) A statement is annexed.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No.3708 for answer on 16.8.2000 put up by Shri A.Bahmanaiah, regarding `User Friendly Buildings and Railway Stations`.

Ministry of Urban Development had prepared the Model Building bye-laws, containing provisions for barrier-free built environment along with guidelines and space standards and circulated the same to all the State Governments and Union Territories, for adoption. A circular has also been issued by that Ministry to all Ministries/ Departments in Centre as well as States, to ensure provision of barrier-free facilities in all new Government buildings and public utilities.The CPWD has planned and executed barrier- free features like appropriate ramps with railing, reserved parking for disabled, accessible lifts with auditory signals (wherever possible) and toilets for disabled with international signage for the disabled in a number of public buildings. It is decided that all the existing Central Government Public Buildings would be made barrier-free ,phase- wise. For construction of new Central Government Public Buildings in the regions, instructions have been issued to Architects to follow Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for Disabled and Elderly Persons.

The Ministry of Railways have already issued instructions to the Zonal Railway Administrations to provide facilities for the disabled. Some of the facilities like provision of Western Type WCs accessible to wheel Chair users and ramps on foot-over bridges have already been provided in some railway buildings for barrier-free entry for the handicapped persons.The Ministry of Railways have adopted the following strategy to implement and provide these facilities in two phases. The short-term plan includes provision of standard ramps with railing for barrier-free entry into Railway buildings in Metropolitan Cities,provision of at least one toilet of standard design in each building, preferably on ground/ first floor with easy approach,signages and non-slippery walkways around the buildings .The long-term plan includes, besides provision for standard ramps with railing for barrier-free entry into railway buildings for all towns and cities other than Metropolitan cities,developing facilities for intra-platform transfers and easy entrance to coaches and provision of facilities inside the coaches. A high level committee under the chairmanship of Additional Member of Railway Board has been set up to periodically monitor the progress .